

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing claim amendments, claims 3, 11-21 and 27-33 will be pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In this regard, Applicants note with appreciation that claims 27-33 have been allowed and that claims 2, 3 and 9-23 were withdrawn from consideration as directed to a nonelected invention.

Therefore, claim 2, 9 and 10 are cancelled and claims 3 and 11-21 are amended to depend from allowed claim 27.

Therefore, all of the remaining pending claims are allowed or are allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the cancellation, from the currently pending claims, of the embodiment of the invention wherein A = hydrogen, or a monovalent or polyvalent organic group, the Terminal Disclaimer previously filed with respect to U.S. 6,245,829, is no longer required and Applicants formally request that the Terminal Disclaimer be withdrawn before the allowance of this application.

A Petition to the Commissioner is being filed concurrently herewith petitioning for withdrawal of the previously filed Terminal Disclaimer together with the petition fee and explanation why the Terminal Disclaimer is no longer required.

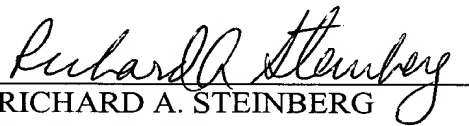
It is believed that the subject application, subject to the withdrawal of the Terminal Disclaimer, is now in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain to be resolved, for which a telephone discussion would expedite allowance or resolution, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned counsel and the telephone number given below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP


RICHARD A. STEINBERG
Reg. No. 26,588
Tel. No. (703) 905-2039
Fax No. (703) 905-2500

PAUL L. SHARER
Reg. No. 36,004
Tel. No. (703) 905-2180

P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000